

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 1996

Contact: Kristy Khachigian
(202) 225-2132

Istook Given “Taxpayers’ Friend Award” by National Taxpayers’ Union

Washington, D.C. -- National Taxpayers Union (NTU) has presented Rep. Ernest J. Istook, Jr. (R-Okla.) with their “Taxpayers’ Friend Award.” The award is based on 238 key federal spending votes in the House of Representatives in 1995. The large number of votes (238) selected by NTU includes every vote that affected taxes, spending and the federal debt.

Istook was ranked in the very top group of Congressmen devoted to reducing spending and lowering the deficit. Istook was given an “A” rating with a score of 88% of NTU’s “right” votes. Nobody received a perfect score. Out of 435 House Members, only 17 had a higher score than Istook. Among all 56 members on the Appropriations Committee, which makes federal spending decisions, Istook rated as the top Member devoted to cutting spending. Istook has been given a Taxpayers’ Friend Award each of his three years in Congress.

“I’m honored to receive the Taxpayers’ Friend Award from the National Taxpayers’ Union,” stated Istook. **“Some members talk about the importance of balancing the budget and controlling federal spending, but only the votes show who’s really committed.”**

Istook also received a similar top rating this week from Citizens Against Government Waste, another federal spending watchdog group.

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